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CSU Food Systems Webinar Series

Climate Smart Agriculture

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MT

followed by Q & A

Join us for a discussion to explore the intersection of food production, processing, and marketing in the face of climate change. Hear about different initiatives and programs across the state, helping Colorado farmers and ranchers prepare for and respond to greater climate uncertainty. Programs featured will include AgNext, Drought Advisors, the STAR program, CSU ag tech and more.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

View previous webinars [here](#).



Mark Your Calendar

Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers 2022 courses

Learn how to safely produce food from home as a cottage food business. This online course covers a variety of topics, including: basic food safety, foods that are permissible under the updated Colorado Cottage Foods Act, ingredient labeling, special considerations for food preparation at high altitudes, and safe food sampling best practices. Registration is \$50.

Courses will be offered online on the following dates (note that all remaining 2022 classes are closed). **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program.

CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **January 23**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **January 27**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **February 22**, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **March 10**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **April 21**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



CSU Cowpea Production Webinar

The CSU Crops Testing Program and CSU Extension are inviting producers to a Cowpea (black-eyed pea)

Production Webinar. This free webinar will be live online on Thursday, **January 19th from 9-10:30 a.m.** This meeting will offer agronomic and marketing insights into this drought-tolerant and low water use crop.

CSU Extension Specialist Sally Jones-Diamond will present the CSU cowpea variety trial results from 2022. Joel Schneekloth, CSU Extension Water Resources Specialist, will talk about water-use of cowpea under different irrigation regimes. Courtney Schuler from Trinidad-Benham and Don Pope from Farmer Bean and Seed will talk about agronomics and current markets.

To register and receive a Zoom meeting link or for more information, please email Sally at sally.jones@colostate.edu.

2023 AgrAbility Winter Workshops

Registration for the 2023 AgrAbility workshops is now open. The following program will be offered at each location:

- Introduction to the Colorado AgrAbility Project
- Ergonomic Safety and Health in Agriculture
- Mealtime keynote, Whitney Pennington, Outreach Manager for the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at CSU
- Drought and the CO River, Perspectives for Agriculture
- Resiliency and Stress Management on the Farm and Ranch

Programs will take place at the following locations:

- **January 11:** 10am-2:30pm at the CSU Western Campus in Grand Junction
- **January 12:** 10am-2:30pm at the Montrose Event Center
- **February 10:** 10am-2:30pm at the El Paso County Extension Office in Colorado Springs
- **February 17:** 10am-2:30pm at the Logan County Extension Office in Sterling
- **February 23:** 3pm-7:30pm at the Ault-Pierce Fire Station #2
- **March 1:** 10am-2:30pm at the Community Building in Limon

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



International Livestock Forum and the Mountain Meat Summit

On **January 11-12, 2023** the 9th annual International Livestock Forum and the first Mountain Meat Summit will bring together industry leaders, government professionals, and members of academia to discuss domestic and international livestock and food production. Participants will be invited to join on a unique tour of Colorado's livestock and meat enterprises, behind-the-scenes access to the National Western Stock Show and the new CSU Spur campus.

The event is hosted by Colorado State University's Department of Animal Sciences, the National Western Stock Show, and the National Meat Summit Committee.

Registration closes on January 8th and tours are filling up. Register **today!**



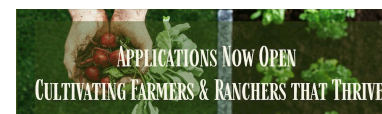
Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program

Registration is closing soon for the 2023 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program. This **online** class covers the principles of business management, developing a marketing plan, managing risk in your operation, obtaining financing, and more.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 pm, from **January 17-March 7, 2023**. This 8-week class culminates in you presenting your draft business plan to a group of your peers. This is the perfect opportunity to share and get feedback on your farm and ranch plans with your peers, more experienced producers in Colorado and CSU Extension staff.

Check **here** for a link to register and for additional information on the program.

Valley Food Partnership's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program



The Valley Food Partnership, a non-profit based in Montrose, has a mission to foster growth of the food system across the Uncompahgre Valley and Western Slope of Colorado. After receiving a USDA grant, they now offer a Cultivating Farmers & Ranchers that Thrive (CFRT) program, an in-person program.

In this program, participants will receive a holistic management education related to water conservation, soil health, business planning, seasonal continuation of education offerings, local mentorship, internship opportunities, and support with land access. Participants will also be invited to the Western Colorado Soil Health Food and Farm Forum as well as other agricultural events.

Applications are now open, and are due by **January 15th**. Click **here** to apply.

For more information, please contact cally@valleyfoodpartnership.org.



Western Colorado Soil Health, Food & Farm Forum

Connect with farmers, ranchers, and experts in soil health, crops, livestock, and water management. Sessions will focus on maximizing regenerative crop and livestock production, innovative marketing and financial management strategies, soil, health, labor and water issues.

Keynote speakers will include:

- Jim Howell, CEO of Grasslands LLC
 - "Livestock + Management of the Whole = Soil Health"
- Dr. David Johnson, Molecular Biologist at New Mexico State University
 - "Regenerating the Diversity of Life in Soils"
- Dr. Lucinda Stuenkel, Owner/Manager of Sunny Day Farms
 - "Serving Cattle a Cover Crop Buffet"
- Zach Wright, Soil Health Educator at Living Soil Compost Lab, LLC
 - "Be a Least Cost Producer. Really."

The Forum will be held **January 27-28** in Montrose, CO.

Register [here](#).

Grain School Online 2023

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) is offering an online grain school in the Spring of 2023. Three courses will be offered for \$150 each, or all 3 courses can be taken for \$400.



Online modules will be available for 12 months. Live online sessions will occur each Thursday from 4:30pm-6pm MST. Experiential sessions for UCCS students and local participants will occur each Friday from 10:50am-1:30pm MST at UCCS.

Courses offered will include:

- Farming & Processing (**Feb 2-24**)
- Health & Nutrition (**March 2-31**)
- Community (**April 6-28**)

Scholarships for Colorado farmers and grain-focused businesses are available.

To pre-register now, click [here](#).



**AGRICULTURE AND
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Ag Producers: Tune up Your Taxes

Join ag business management specialist, Jeff Tranel, on **February 6** from 6:00pm-7:30pm for a class on agricultural taxes.

Topics covered will include:

- Farm/Ranch (Schedule F) income & expenses
- Cost recovery (depreciation)
- Reporting on Schedule C versus Schedule F
- Tax management strategies
- Time for questions

This class is free but you must [register](#) to attend.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training February 8-9, online

Colorado State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will host an online Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course in two parts, from 8am-1:00pm on both February 8 and February 9, 2023.



Since it is online only, it has a very specific structure. Please read all the registration information to make sure this course and its format will work for you.

This course will provide a foundation on the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. Individuals are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them;
- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm;
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm; and
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one.

The registration fee is \$35 which includes PSA materials and a certificate of completion as required under FSMA. Registration for this course closes on January 18, 2023 in order to have time to mail out required course materials.

Register here: <https://cfvga.memberclicks.net/cpsagrowertrainingfeb892023>



Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association 2023 Annual Conference

Register now for CFVGA's annual conference, which will take place on **February 21-22, 2023** in Westminster.

The conference kicks off at noon Feb. 21 with a luncheon and membership meeting. The Tuesday (Feb. 21) evening keynote session, "Agriculture Climate Resiliency Tools and Policy Opportunities," will feature A.G. Kawamura, former secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Conference attendees will be able to choose from a variety of educational sessions, including the latest in research and production practices, food safety techniques and exploration of drip irrigation. Sessions also will be available on the Ag Labor Rights & Responsibilities Act (ALRRA), also known as SB21-087, and practical workforce resources gleaned from farmworker ergonomic research conducted during the summer of 2022.

The conference also will feature a full slate of exhibitors showcasing produce production goods and services. The conference will wind up on day two with the grower-buyer networking session.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Shared Kitchens 101 Workshop

This workshop, hosted by The Food Corridor, will provide an introduction to the shared kitchen industry. The Food Corridor team will walk attendees through emerging definitions and models of shared use kitchens, help communities identify opportunities for renters and programs, guide attendees through activities to begin planning goals and outcomes, and develop strategies and best practices for successful kitchen planning and launching.

The workshop is for community members or organizations interested in, charged with, or in the beginning phases of starting a shared use kitchen project. The workshop will be on **March 5th from 8am-4pm** at the Marina Village Conference Center in San Diego, CA. This event takes place before InTents: The Farmers Market Conference. It is in-person only, with no virtual option.

Click [here](#) to register, or [here](#) for more information.

Sun Soil Water Ag Summit: Save the Date!

The Pueblo Food Project, CSU Pueblo County Extension, and partners are hosting the 3rd annual Sun Soil Water Ag Summit at Pueblo Community College on **March 17th and 18th**.



This will be an opportunity to gather, learn, and share delicious food! Events will include:

Friday the 17th:

- Pitch Competition 1pm-5pm
- Food Systems Leaderships Awards 6pm-9pm

Saturday the 18th:

- Community Led Summit 8:30am-6pm
 - **Session proposal form**
- Makers' Market and Idea Fair 8:30am-6pm
 - **Booth application form**

Registration will be opening soon, with scholarships available.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Funding Opportunities

Young Farmer Grant Cycle is Open

The Young Farmer Grant Cycle is now open for 2023. For the last three years, the National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers) has partnered with Chipotle to support young and beginning farmers and ranchers start up and grow their businesses with a flexible funding opportunity each spring.



The program has provided 50 farmers and ranchers with \$5,000 each in the spring of 2020, 2021, and 2022. Grant recipients also received a one-year membership to the National Young Farmers Coalition. In the fourth year of the program, they will be growing the program to offer 75 grants to a new cohort of young farmers and ranchers in 2023.

Applications are due **January 13th at 1pm** MT. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).



Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

USDA plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023.

USDA's new **Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops** (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, **through January 31, 2023**, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Rural Business Development Program Grants Available



Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development is seeking applications for **grants that will support entrepreneurs and create jobs in rural America**. These projects will use local rural materials or human resources, and must be consistent with local and area-wide community and economic development plans. Applications must be submitted by 4:30pm local time on **Feb. 28, 2023**.

For more information, or to apply, click [here](#).



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans Available

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the USDA **Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program** is offering loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects. These grants will be offered to projects that are starting or expanding activities in the middle of the food supply chain. For example, the

program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.



News, Resources & Reading



New Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

As part of their efforts to improve equity and access to USDA programs, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has published a new guide designed to help historically underserved farmers and ranchers navigate the many available programs. The guide encompasses a wealth of information on farm loans, the conservation planning process, risk management, and the specifics of various USDA programs.

The guide, "Get Started: A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers", is available online as a **digital download**. Additionally, the guide can be downloaded in **Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese**. Other languages are available upon request.



From Our Communities

Researchers Recruiting BIPOC Producers' Voices in the Mountains and Plains Region

The USDA AMS has collaborated with Florida A&M and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on a project that seeks to understand how to best support BIPOC farmers in the US. More specifically, the project will:

- evaluate barriers to AMS grant opportunities for socially disadvantaged communities;
- invest in building trust and confidence between these communities and the USDA; and
- take action to rectify inequalities in program access through targeted outreach, training, and technical assistance.

Project leaders are conducting listening sessions and have been able to hear from Black farmers thus far, but are still hoping to hear from Asian, Native American, Hispanic, Japanese, and African farmers or farmer organizations.

For more information or to participate, please **contact Dr. Virginie Zoumenou** at vmzoumenou@umes.edu.



ABOUT FOOD SYSTEMS

at Colorado State University

Food systems are the connections between natural resources, the agricultural and food industries, and the buyers, consumers, and communities to which they contribute. Research, extension and education identify and inform opportunities to bridge how production, supply chains, and eaters respond to changing markets, policy, and the environment. At CSU, we focus on these key areas to train, influence, and communicate ways to connect food-related roles and foster healthy communities, economies, and individuals.



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